



CITY of MERCER ISLAND SEWER LAKE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT PROJECT UPDATE

April 2010

We are pleased to report that construction on the Lake Line Replacement project is **ahead of schedule** and **on budget**.

Successful First Year

Our first year was a success for several reasons. Manson Construction completed installation of the main sewer line last summer within the tight timeframe allowed by permitting restrictions due to salmon spawning cycles. All installed lines meet key requirements for water quality assurance and system performance.

Stellar J Construction is also on schedule; they are 75% complete with construction of the new Pump Station and control building located under I-90 (shown right). We expect to begin testing of this facility in May.



The City of Mercer Island remains committed to working with you to minimize disruption to your household and to uphold the highest standards of quality, recognizing that this project will help protect your property values. Construction in the lake will resume this summer. Here is what you can expect during the coming months...

Side Sewer Connections

Manson Construction and their subcontractor Frank Coluccio Company will continue work to install side sewer connections to homes beginning July 2. Manson will run the new side sewers from the newly-installed main line towards shore and Coluccio will complete the work by connecting the new side sewer to your existing side sewer at the shoreline.



Equipment for side sewer work

Altogether, Manson and Coluccio will install and connect 38 side sewers this summer. These 38 sewer lines serve a total of 71 properties. Manson laid pipe for 10 of these lines last season and will lay pipe for the remaining 28 this summer. Coluccio will connect all 38 sewer lines between July 2 and October 31.



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Connections between the new side sewers and existing side sewers will vary. Most will occur on the shore or in the Lake, but some must be connected on land. For those connections which occur on land, property will be restored to as close to original conditions as possible, although restoration may not take place the same day in which sewer line work was completed. If work disrupts a rockery or plantings, items will be reinstalled to match the original condition as closely as possible.

For those connections occurring in the Lake, Manson will remove sand, lay the pipe, and then reinstall the original sand over the new pipe. They will also add new spawning gravel over the top of the work area as required by the conditions of the permit issued by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife .



Let Us Know Your Summer Schedule

Our work window begins July 2 and ends October 31. At some point during that time, your existing side sewer will be disconnected from the old line and then reconnected with the new line. This means you could have a 10- to 12-hour period without sewer services to your property. Equipment and noise levels will be similar to that experienced last summer.

If you know you will have a big event such as a wedding, reunion or other gathering at your home, **let us know now** and we'll do our best to schedule the sewer work around your event. If you wait to notify us, we will not have much flexibility to change the construction schedule.

If you will be out of town during summer, let us know and leave contact information such as the name of your property manager, staff or other responsible party. We will send more details regarding our construction schedule as early as possible in June.

Important Reminders

Remember to let us know if you have invisible **dog fencing, anchor lines, irrigation pipelines** or anything else extending into the lake by calling (206) 275-7813. When crews begin installing side sewers, they will bring equipment towards shore and we don't want to run the risk of damaging your property.

If you have a **large boat**, you will need to make arrangements to have it moved out of the way when crews are working on or near your property.



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Manson Construction will continue to use **SE 32nd/Proctor Landing** for construction staging. This park site will remain closed to public use for the duration of the project.

Important Considerations

If you are considering a complete replacement or lining of your side sewer, **now** is the time to do so. It will never be less expensive. We encourage you to replace or relin your side sewer if it is older (original) and has had no work done to it.



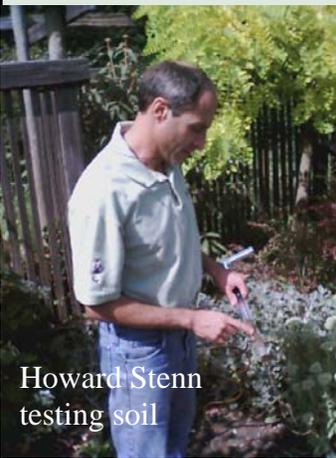
Work at Proctor Landing

If you don't already have them, consider installing two important components to your side sewer this summer. A **backwater valve** will help prevent sewage from the main line from backing up into your home in the event of an emergency in the sewer main line. A **cleanout** will allow access to clear any blockages in your side sewer line.

Contact Dave Hart, customer response technician, at (206) 930-5262 for advice on replacing or relining your side sewer or installing a backwater valve or cleanout.

Landscape Assessments

As a special service to those who are impacted by the Lake Line construction, we are inviting you to participate in the Landscape Assessment Program, a special water conservation service. At no charge to you, noted landscape professional Howard Stenn of Stenn Design will perform an extensive assessment of your soil conditions, plantings, landscape maintenance and watering practices as well as your irrigation system. Mr. Stenn will then present his findings and water conservation recommendations to you in a detailed written report.



Howard Stenn testing soil

The City of Mercer Island has offered the Landscape Assessment program for almost 10 years. Hundreds of residents have taken advantage of the program and have told us they found it quite valuable.

To learn more or to schedule your Landscape Assessment, call Suzanne Riddell, the City's Utility Billing Supervisor, at (206) 236-3560.



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Caring for Your New Lake Line

One of the best ways to care for our new system is to be careful about what goes down your drain. Grease is our region's biggest sewage problem. While we are just beginning to study the problem on Mercer Island, grease-clogged pipes caused about one-third of Seattle's sewer backups over the last five years. One expert estimated that the amount of grease which flows down Seattle's drains would fill *seven large swimming pools each month*.

Protect our new sewer lines by scraping grease into your garbage instead of sending it down your garbage disposal. Avoid flushing any items not marked 'flushable.' Remember – disposable does *not* mean flushable. For example, do not flush diapers, Swiffers or disposable wipes, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, plastic bags or other similar items. All of them damage your plumbing and our sewage collection and treatment efforts. Please help us keep our new system running smoothly.

Questions?

Contact Anne Tonella-Howe, City of Mercer Island Project Manager, at (206) 275-7813 or anne.tonella-howe@mercergov.org for more information on this project. Or, visit www.mercergov.org/lakeline for project updates.



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